

## Pledge Process Overview

Dear SLV community members,

We reached consensus on the 2009 budget on November 6, 2008. The pledge period is now open. You must submit a pledge by November 20, 2008 to be included in the pledge process. Otherwise, you will be categorized as opting out of the pledge process. After November 20, 2008, the Finance Committee will provide data on pledge levels across the community and allow people to update their pledge amount as they so desire. By the end of November, the pledge process will be closed and we will complete the budget reconciliation process. At the completion of the pledge period and the budget reconciliation process, each household will receive verification of their monthly dues commitment for the 2009 budget year.

### Determining your Pledge

During this period, we ask that all community members to make their pledge. We have provided three tools to assist you in determining the level of your pledge. You may use any combination of these tools to help guide your decision about what to pledge:

- 1) The Fixed and Pledge budgets for which we reached consensus
  - a. This document reminds you of what we agreed to fund and helps you think about how you value the items included in the pledge budget. All households will pay a per household rate of 1/33<sup>rd</sup> of the fixed budget (\$64.00 per household per month). Pledges are added to that amount to determine your total monthly dues for the 2009 budget year.
- 2) Per adult rate calculation linked to the pledge budget (**~\$10 per adult per month**)
  - a. This calculation allows you to use one of the factors that differentiates households to determine what amount you choose to pledge. The number of adults includes all people living in the house you consider to be an adult (including renters). This factor is proposed as a guiding benchmark by the Finance Committee but does not represent an obligation to pay at that level. The rate is based on an estimated 60 adults living in the community.
- 3) Pledge budget queries
  - a. This document provides a set of open ended questions to ask yourself as you think through the core issues that we discussed during the budget proposal development process. It highlights questions related to the impacts and benefits of living here as well as ability to pay. We encourage you to seriously reflect on your personal or household answers to these questions as you determine your pledge level.

### To submit pledges

We request that you submit a pledge to the Finance Committee by November 20, 2008. You may submit pledges in two ways: 1) by sending an email to [whbutler@gmail.com](mailto:whbutler@gmail.com), or 2) by placing your name and pledge amount (monthly rate in whole dollar amounts) in a sealed envelope marked "SLV Pledge" in the Common House mailbox. Your name and pledge amount will only be known by the Finance Committee and Treasurer. Your pledge (combined with the per household share of the fixed portion of the budget) comprise your monthly SLV dues for 2009.

**Key information:**

- **Deadline Date for submitting pledges:** November 20, 2008
- **Submit pledges by:**
  - Sending an email to [whbutler@gmail.com](mailto:whbutler@gmail.com)
  - Placing your name and a pledge amount (monthly rate, whole dollar amounts please) in a sealed envelope in the Common House mailbox. Write “SLV Pledge” on the outside of the envelope.
- **Fixed Budget Dues Rate:** \$64.00 per household per month
- **Per adult rate for pledge budget:** ~\$10 per adult per month
- **1/33<sup>rd</sup> rate for pledge budget:** \$18.50 per household per month
  - (opt-out landowners pay this amount along with fixed budget dues = \$82.50).
- **Queries:** see attached

**Making sense of the budget**

Income needs this year are virtually equal to last year. There are two major reasons:

- Other income: We have several sources of other income that helps cover the fixed costs of using the common house including the guest rooms, Celloworks, and laundry. These sources of income reduce the total budget need by \$2800 for 2009 (carryover from 2008+projected income 2009).
- Over budgeting in past: Some fixed costs were allotted more than necessary in the past, so we enjoy a carryover from 2008 in some categories and we tightened the numbers a little in the 2009 request. An exception is CH Utilities which continue to face inflationary price pressures so we continue to pad those estimates to account for likely price increases in the coming year.

**Other key points:**

- Capital Expense Reserve: The Capital Expense Reserve account is now attached to inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index. Last year inflation was at an annualized rate of 4.9%.
- Governance Approvals: The only items included in the budget now and in the future must have gone through appropriate governance processes (either plenary or committees) prior to being submitted to the budget. Therefore, all things in the budget have been vetted before the community prior to the first budget meeting.

**Information pertinent to renters and off-site owners:**

- Renters
  - If you live in a home not occupied by your landlord and pay the household dues, communicate with your landlord to determine how to set your dues levels based on their choice to pledge or opt-out of the pledge process.
  - If you live in a home also occupied by your landlord then you are under no obligation to pay dues to the community but should confirm with your landlord whatever obligations you have with him/her related to SLV dues.
- Off-site landowners
  - If you have arranged for your renters to pay dues, communicate with them to determine how to set their dues obligation based on your/their pledge amount or choice to opt-out of the pledge process.

## Budget

### SLV Fixed Budget

	<b>2008 Budget</b>	<b>2008 Actual to Date</b>	<b>2008 Total Projected</b>	<b>2008 Projected Variance</b>	<b>2009 Request</b>
--	------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------------	--	---------------------

#### Grounds Committee

Snow removal	450	200	400	50	\$ 400.00
Mowing	1,800	1,950	1,950	-150	\$ 2,000.00
Safety supplies	200	0	0	200	\$ 200.00
Outdoor lighting bulbs	150	92	92	58	\$ 150.00
Parking wheelstops	0	0	0	0	\$ 1,750.00
<b>Total Grounds</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,242</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>\$ 4,500.00</b>

#### Misc. Operating

Outside tax prep	325	275	275	50	\$ 300.00
Fire extinguisher maintenance	0	0	0	0	\$ -
Insurance	1,600	1,508	1,508	92	\$ 1,525.00
Licenses	25	25	25	0	\$ 25.00
HVAC maintenance contract	250	240	240	10	\$ 250.00
State Fees	50	0	25	25	\$ 25.00
<b>Total Misc. Operating</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>2,073</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>\$ 2,125.00</b>

#### Common House Utilities

Utilities - Electric	3,300	1,845	2,400	900	\$ 2,850.00
Utilities - Gas	1400	1520	1600	-200	\$ 1,800.00
Utilities - Trash	2,500	2,300	2,800	-300	\$ 3,000.00
Utilities - Water/sewer	1,000	544	625	375	\$ 800.00
Utilities - Telephone	300	220	260	40	\$ 275.00
<b>Total Common House</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>6,429</b>	<b>7,685</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>\$ 8,725.00</b>

#### Contingency and Capital Expense Reserve

Contingency Fund	1,200	0	0	1,200	\$ 1,200.00
Reserve for Capital Expenses	12,904	12,904	12,904	0	\$ 13,536.30
<b>Total Contingency/Reserve</b>	<b>14,104</b>	<b>12,904</b>	<b>12,904</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>\$ 14,736.30</b>

<b>Total Fixed Budget</b>	<b>27,454</b>	<b>23,623</b>	<b>25,104</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>\$30,086.30</b>
---------------------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	--------------	--------------------

### Revenue

<b>Projected carryover from 2008 fixed</b>	<b>\$ 2,350.00</b>
<b>Projected carryover from 2008 other revenue</b>	<b>\$ 787.00</b>

#### Other sources of revenue

Celloworks CH rental	0	0	437	-437	\$ 437.00
Guest Rooms	300	382.5	450	-150	\$ 450.00

**SLV Pledge Packet**

November 13, 2008

Laundry	550	505	750	-200	\$	550.00
Associate dues	250	250	250	0	\$	250.00
<b>Total other revenue</b>						<b>\$ 1,687.00</b>
<b>Total Remaining Need</b>						<b>\$25,262.30</b>
<b>Fixed Dues Revenue</b>						<b>\$25,344.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>					\$	<b>81.70</b>

**Fixed Household**           \$ 765.52   per year  
**Dues**                     \$ 63.79   per month rounded up to nearest half dollar  
**\$ 64.00**

**Each household will pay \$64.00 per month toward the fixed budget.**

**SLV Pledge Budget**

	<b>2008 Budget</b>	<b>2008 Year to Date Actual</b>	<b>2008 Total Projected</b>	<b>2008 Projected Variance</b>	<b>2009 Request</b>
<b>Committee - Community</b>					
Events	900	851	900	0	
Retreat supplies					\$ 550.00
Coffee Houses					\$ 100.00
Fun day food supplies					\$ 600.00
Childcare	600	0	0	600	
Kid Issue Group meetings (\$20 X 10 meetings)					\$ 200.00
Community Life meetings (\$20 X 5 mtgs)					\$ 100.00
Storage Shelves					\$ 200.00
Supplies					\$ 150.00
<b>Sub-Committee--Kitchen</b>					
Supplies	300	183	183	117	
Frying Pan					\$ 130.00
Large Serving Platters					\$ 60.00
Misc other items					\$ 210.00
<b>Total Comm Committee</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>\$ 2,300.00</b>
<b>Committee - Grounds</b>					
Brush hogging					\$ 500.00
Fire pit spigot					\$ 950.00
Clear brush and logs					\$ 500.00
Woods stewardship planning					\$ 300.00
Tree house construction					\$ 300.00
Gravel Road to brush area					\$ 700.00
Miscellaneous	1200	1173	1173	27	\$ 600.00
maintenance, tools, new projects,					
etc.					
Prairie	200	200	200	0	0
Water Spigots	300			300	0
Fire Pit Construction	300	300	300	0	0
<b>Total Grounds Comm</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>\$ 3,850.00</b>
<b>Committee - CRT</b>					
Materials	200	0	0	200	\$ 100.00
<b>Dues</b>					
Coho US	250	0	250	0	\$ 250.00
Regional Coho (MAC)	100	100	100	0	\$ 100.00
<b>Total Dues</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$ 350.00</b>
<b>Misc. Operating</b>					
Miscellaneous - equipment	200			200	\$ 200.00
Office Expenses (Treasurer)	50	40	50	0	\$ 50.00

## SLV Pledge Packet

November 13, 2008

<b>Total Misc. Operating</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>
<b>Electronic Communications</b>					
Web Hosting	180	70	96	84	\$ 100.00
Members website server	240	0	50	190	\$ 240.00
Hardware Cost for website server	250	128	128	122	\$ -
Misc hardware/software					\$ 100.00
SLV listserv (BEVnet)					\$ 20.00
<b>Total ECC</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>\$ 460.00</b>
<b>Common House expenses</b>					
Repairs and maintenance	600	423	600	0	\$ 600.00
CH Internet	480	240	480	0	\$ 480.00
General Supplies	250	225	250	0	\$ 250.00
CH Guest Rooms	1000	916	1000	0	\$ 425.00
<b>Total CH expenses</b>	<b>2330</b>	<b>1804</b>	<b>2330</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$ 1,755.00</b>
<b>Committee - Facilitation</b>					
Outside facilitation	0	0	0	0	0
Supplies	50	0	0	50	0
<b>Total Fac Committee</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Discretionary Fund</b>	<b>1548</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>\$ 1,200.00</b>
<b>Total Pledge Budget 2008</b>	<b>9,148</b>	<b>5,264</b>	<b>6,625</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>\$ 10,265.00</b>
<b>Carryover applicable to Pledge Budget</b>					<b>\$ 2,523.00</b>
<b>Other revenue carryover</b>					<b>\$ 150.00</b>
<b>Other revenue</b>					
Guest Rooms	300	382.5	450	-150	\$ 450.00
<b>Total Pledge Budget Target</b>					<b>\$ 7,142.00</b>
<b>Per household remaining</b>					<b>\$ 18.04</b>
<b>Per adult rate estimate</b>					<b>\$ 9.92</b>

**\*Each household that opts out--chooses not to pledge an amount by the deadline--will pay \$18.50 toward the pledge budget (or \$82.50 per month in total dues) if the pledge budget is fully funded by the end of the budget process.**

**\*\*The per adult rate of ~\$10 is a benchmark to use as a tool to guide how much you pledge based on one factor that differentiates households in the community. This is not the sole factor that differentiates community households. Therefore, we also encourage you to reflect on the attached queries to consider your pledge level.**

## Pledge Budget Queries

The following questions are designed to allow each household to assess their resource use (impacts and benefits) and their financial resources (ability to pay) when determining their pledge amount. Please spend some time thinking through answers to each of these questions to help determine your pledge. These questions are general queries modeled after the query process used in the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). When you use this document to assist in determining your household pledge, you should reflect deeply and honestly about each of these questions.

### 1) Resource Use

- a. What are my/our household's impacts on the infrastructure of SLV that dues need to cover?
  - i. How many people will live in my/our household this year [including renters] and what is our collective wear and tear on common spaces and facilities at SLV (common house spaces, utilities, structural elements and furniture; woods; pedways; playground; shade structures and outdoor furniture; trash and recycling; greens; etc.)?
  - ii. What pets do I/we have and to what extent do they impact my/our community?
- b. What benefits do I/we obtain through paying dues?
  - i. To what extent do the people in my household collectively use and enjoy the common spaces and facilities at SLV (common house spaces, utilities, structural elements and furniture; woods; pedways; playground; shade structures and outdoor furniture; trash and recycling; greens; etc.)?
  - ii. To what extent do the people in my household collectively enjoy the communal life created through both formal and informal events at SLV facilitated through paying dues (breakfasts, special events, celebrations, parties, gatherings, cookouts in public spaces, etc.)?
- c. What other ways do I/we contribute to SLV besides through money?
  - i. What do I/we give to the community beyond my expected workshare hours? How does that factor in my decision to provide financial resources to the community?
  - ii. In what ways do I contribute expertise that the community would otherwise have to pay for if I did not perform a particular task in the community? To what extent should these contributions reflect any financial contributions I might make to the community?

### 2) Ability to pay

- a. What are my/our financial resources available in my/our household budget?
- b. What can I/we contribute monthly to SLV to enhance our quality of life together without feeling undue financial discomfort?
- c. What are ways that I/we take advantage of living in SLV to engage in activities that that might make more funds available in my/our budget than if I/we did not live here (for example, entertainment, books, videos, common meals versus dining out, use of laundry facilities, exercise equipment, garden tools, etc.)?
- d. To what extent does my contribution to Earmark projects at SLV impact my ability to pay for the line items agreed upon the SLV pledge budget? How should I prioritize my contributions to SLV between annual budget and Earmark projects?